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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/975,718 | 01/24/2002 | John C. Sodaro | 81950D-RE | 8424 |

26542 7590 02/20/2004

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| EXAMINER |
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RICCI, JOHN A

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3712

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DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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Paper No. 6

Serial No.: 09-975718
Attorney Docket Number: 819SOD-RE
Filing Date: Oct. 11, 2001
Applicant(s): Sodaro

The Amendment filed 10/11/01 is not in acceptable format because:

The Amendment does not comply with 37 CFR 1.173, which requires that claims added in a reissue application be underlined, see MPEP 1453; note that reissue amendments are covered under 37 CFR 1.173, not 37 CFR 1.121.

✓ PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT: Unless applicant presents the amendment in proper format within ONE MONTH from the mailing date of this letter, examination may begin without entry of the proposed amendment; this ONE MONTH time limit is not extendable under 37 CFR 1.136.

AMENDMENT AFTER NON-FINAL ACTION: Since the response appears to be bona-fide, applicant is given a time period of ONE MONTH or 30 DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this letter, to present the amendment in proper format, to avoid abandonment of this application; extensions of this time period may be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

* * * * *

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 703-308-4751

Fax: Use 703-872-9302 (872-9303 for After-Final papers) for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

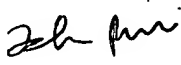
Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.

My supervisor is Derris Banks, 703-308-1745.

PTO main switchboard: 800-786-9199.

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JOHN RICCI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3712